WATER QUALITY REPORT

Your drinking water is *SAFE!*

The City of Hialeah Department of Water and Sewers is pleased to provide our customers with our annual Water Quality Report for the 2006 period. The publishing of this report is required each year by the Safe Drinking Water Act and The State of Florida. This report serves as a reference with important information on the quality of water we deliver and provides you with important contacts and telephone numbers you may need from time to time.

SEVERE DROUGHT AFFECTS OUR REGION

As you know, some areas in the South Florida region depend on the same interconnected system of ground and surface water. Lake Okeechobee serves as the backup water supply for most of our region. Lake Okeechobee is the second largest natural freshwater lake wholly within the United States (Lake Michigan is the largest). Because the lake is shallow and covers over 730 square miles, a lot of water escapes from the surface straight into the atmosphere through evaporation.

South Florida gets an average of 52 inches of rain a year. Total rainfall for 2006 ranked as the sixth lowest on record at only 40.75 inches. Wetter than normal conditions through the remainder of 2007 may not be enough to raise water levels above what the State of Florida considers sufficient to meet expected demands. Therefore, we need to conserve.

WATER CONSERVATION

The one thing everyone can do to help get the most out of our water supplies is to conserve water. Conservation means preventing waste – you know, wise use. Conservation doesn't provide us with more water – it just means to use less water to do the same jobs. When we conserve water, we save it for dry or drier days. When we use less, we have more available the next time there is a water shortage.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the State of Florida has adopted rules to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, Florida Statutes; Ch. 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies. For more information you can log on to www.sfwmd.gov/conserve or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.

SPECIAL NOTE TO AT-RISK POPULATIONS

While the Safe Drinking Water Act is intended to protect consumers throughout their lifetime, some people may be more vulnerable to infections from drinking water than the general population. These "at-risk" populations include immunocompromised persons, such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants; with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and in some cases elderly people and infants. These individuals should seek advise from their health care providers about drinking water. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 305-556-7383.

JULY 2007

Mayor's Message

JULIO ROBAINA
MAYOR

I am pleased to report that the City's water supply meets or exceeds all federal and state guidelines of safe water for the 2006 reporting period. Our annual Water Quality Report presents information about the quality of the water we deliver to you every day. We continue to meet our stated goal of providing a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to all our residents and businesses alike. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and its 1996 amendments ensure that public health and safety is protected in the drinking water supply made available for public consumption. Our drinking water meets or exceeds all safe drinking water standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As you know water is a valuable and precious resource and as such we have a responsibility to protect it and use it wisely. As residents of South Florida we depend on rainfall as our water supply to recharge the aquifer. While South Florida gets an average of 52 inches of rainfall a year, rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer months and fall. Rainfall is also cyclical meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood. Unfortunately, South Florida residents are facing a drought at this time. The South Florida Water Management District is the state agency responsible for the protection of our water supply, including water shortages and conservation. They have established very specific water use restrictions which affect us all. Water restrictions apply to water utilities, private wells, canals, lakes, ponds and rivers, as well as all residents, and commercial and industrial businesses in our community. The Phase II restrictions now in effect require that we use water wisely by eliminating all wasteful and unnecessary water use. In particular, the restrictions require water users to limit outdoor use for irrigation, washing of cars and pressure cleaning among others. Water is a precious commodity. We have a responsibility to use it wisely and preserve it. I encourage you to take time to review this report and learn more about our water, its uses, quality and ways to conserve it.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS REPORT ?

Please contact the City of Hialeah's Department of Water and Sewers

305-556-7383

OR YOU CAN SEE THE REPORT AT
www.ci.hialeah.fl.us

20 Ways to be Water Smart

- Water lawns during the early morning hours, when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces evaporation and waste. Please note the water restrictions now in effect.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. (Help preserve native cypress forests by selecting other types of mulch such as treated melaleuca.)
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose which can be adjusted down to a fine spray, so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle, to avoid leaks.
- Avoid purchasing recreational water toys which require a constant stream of water.
- Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. Use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year!
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If you have a leak, the color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush immediately to avoid stains.)
- If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position, letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.
- Take shorter showers.
- Place a bucket in the shower to collect excess water to water plants.
- In the shower, turn water on to get wet; turn off to lather up; then turn the water back on to rinse off. Repeat when washing your hair.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for water to cool.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator, or use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Kitchen sink disposals require lots of water to operate properly. Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing food waste.
- Do not waste water waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses such as plant watering. Alternatively heat it on the stove or in the microwave.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Conserve water because it is the right thing to do, even when someone else is footing the bill, as when you stay at a hotel.
- Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Every drop counts!

CITY OF HIALEAH 2006 WATER QUALITY REPORT

PARAMETER	FEDERAL MCL (a)	FEDERAL GOAL (b)	STATE MCL	YEAR TESTED	MAIN SYSTEM	MAJOR SOURCES
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS						
Total Coliform Bacteria (c)	5%	0	5%	2006	0.2%	Naturally present in the environment
DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS						
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)(d)	80	NE	80	2006	19 (4 - 48)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) (d)	60	NE	60	2006	25 (3 - 56)	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
DISINFECTANTS						
Chloramines (ppm) (e)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	2006	2.7 (0 - 4.3)	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (ppm) (e)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	2006	N/A	Water additive used to control microbes
VOLATILE OGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
cis-1, 2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	70	2006	ND	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS						
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	10	2005(i)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	2	2005(i)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	4	2005(i)	ND	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	5	2005(i)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) (f) (at tap)	AL=1.3	1.3	AL=1.3	05/06 (g)	0.08, 0 homes out of 83 (0%) exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Cyanide (ppb)	200	200	200	2005(i)	ND	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	4	2005 (h)	0.7 (0.2 - 0.7)	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Lead (ppb) (f) (at tap)	AL = 15	0	AL = 15	05/06 (g)	4, 3 homes out of 83 (3.6%) exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	10	10	10	2006	0.2 (ND - 0.2)	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from fertilizer use
Sodium (ppm)	NE	NE	160	2005(i)	53 (22 - 53)	Erosion of natural deposits and sea water
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS						
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	15	2003 (i)	4.7 (0.7 - 4.7)	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0	5	2003 (i)	0.9 (0.3 - 0.9)	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	30	0	30	2003 (i)	1.7 (0.2 - 1.7)	Erosion of natural deposits

WATER QUALITY TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS REPORT

(a) MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
(b) Federal Goal = MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
(c) The MCL for total coliform bacteria states that drinking water must not show the presence of coliform bacteria in ≥5% of monthly samples. A minimum of 390 samples for a total coliform bacteria testing are collected each month from the main distribution system in order to demonstrate compliance with regulations.
(d) A total of 48 samples for Total Trihalomethane and Haloacetic Acid testing are collected each year from the Main Distribution System in order to demonstrate compliance with State regulations. Compliance is based on a running annual average. This is the value that precedes the parenthesis.
(e) Compliance s based on a running annual average, computed quarterly from-monthly samles collected during total coliform bacteria testing.
(f) 90th percentile value reported. If the 90th percentile value does not exceed the AL (i.e., less than 10% of the homes have levels above the AL), the system is in compliance and is utilizing the prescribed corrosion control measures.
(g) The 05/06 data presented for the Main System is from the most recent testing conducted in accordance with regulations. This system is under reduced monitoring that only requires testing every 3 years.
(h) Fluoride testing to demontrate compliance with State regulations is required every 3 years in accordance with the State's monitoring framework. However, fluoride levels are monitored daily for the Main System treatment plants where fluoride is added to promote strong teeth.
(i) Data presented is from the most recent testing conducted in accordance with regulations. Testing for this parameter is required every 3 years in accordance with the State's regulatory monitoring framework.

ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES

AL = Action Level
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal
N/A = Not Applicable
ND = None Detected
NE = None Established
pCi/L = picoCuries per Liter
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
( ) = Ranges (low-high) are given in parenthesis where applicable
The value preceding the parentheses is the highest detected level reported for the monitoring period except for disinfection by products and disinfectants, where the running annual average is reported.

*** THE CITY OF HIALEAH OBTAINS ALL OF ITS WATER FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY. THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

2006 RADON DATA SUMMARY

PARAMETER	FEDERAL GOAL	FEDERAL MCL	STATE MCL	YEAR TESTED	MAIN SYSTEM	MAJOR SOURCES
RADON (pCi/L)	NE	NE	NE	2006	178 (18 - 178)	Naturally occurring in soil and rock formations

What Should I Know About Certain Contaminants?

ALPHA EMITTERS is a measure of radioactivity due to naturally occurring minerals in groundwater. The MCL excludes the radioactivity contributed by either radon or uranium. Sampling of our water alpha emitters conducted in 2004 was 4.7 Picocurie per liter (pCi/L). The MCL is 15 pCi/L.

ARSENIC – EPA recently finalized a reduction to the arsenic drinking water standard from 50 ppb down to 10 ppb. All water utilities must meet this reduced standard value beginning January 2006. While your drinking water meets USEPA's reduced standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. USEPA's new standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic. Arsenic is a mineral known to cause an increased risk of cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, such as damage to the skin and circulatory system.

BERYLLIUM – A metal hazardous to human health when inhaled as an airborne pollutant. It is discharged by machine shops, ceramic and propellant plants, and foundries.

CADMIUM (Cd) – A heavy metal that accumulates in the environment.

CHLORAMINES as a group, are generally recognized as potent respiratory irritants. These compounds form when household bleach and ammonia are mixed and leads to poisoning.

CHLORINE DIOXIDE is a powerful oxidizing agent that can decompose into chlorite. In the absence of oxidizable substances and in the presence of alkali, it dissolves in water, decomposing with the slow formation of chlorite and chlorate.

COLIFORM BACTERIA are very commonly found in the environment and in the digestive tract of animals. While rarely harmful, Coliform bacteria in drinking water is an indicator that the water may also contain harmful microorganisms. In 2004 the total Coliform sample was 0.2% (The MCL is 5%).

COMBINED RADIUM is radium's most common isotope (atoms whose nuclei have the same number of protons but different number of neutrons) with a half-life of 1,622 years. It is used in cancer radiotherapy, as a neutron source for some research purposes, and as a constituent of luminescent pains. It naturally occurs in some drinking water sources. Some people who drink water containing radium -226 or –228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

CYANIDE is a carbon-nitrogen chemical unit, which combines with many organic and inorganic compounds. The most commonly used form, hydrogen cyanide, is mainly used to produce the compounds needed to make nylon and other synthetic fibers and resins. Other cyanides are used as herbicides. EPA has found cyanide to potentially cause the following health effects in people who are exposed to it at levels above the MCL for relatively short periods of time: rapid breathing, tremors and other neurological afflictions. Cyanide has the potential to cause the following effects from a lifetime exposure at levels above the MCL: weight loss, thyroid deficiencies and nerve damage.

FLUORIDE is an important naturally occurring mineral that helps form healthy teeth and bones. A concentration of 1ppm is considered optimum. At concentrations above 2 ppm, fluoride can cause mild discoloration of teeth. Exposure at above the MCL of 4 ppm can cause both severe discoloration and over many years of exposure, bone disease.

HALOACETIC ACIDS are organic compounds containing chlorine and/or bromine. The compounds are formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with organic and inorganic matter in water. At high enough concentrations, they are poisonous to plants, and some are suspected carcinogens.

LEAD AND COPPER are naturally occurring metals, which are generally found at very low levels in source water. However, these levels can increase when water contacts plumbing materials that contain lead, copper, or brass. Infants and young children are more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. Concerned customers can take an extra precaution to protect children from lead leaked from faucets by running the water for a few seconds and using the water for something other than drinking. This is especially important if the water has been sitting in the pipes for a few hours or more. These same precautions also help give you the best tasting water. The last required lead and copper monitoring was performed in 2002/03. The results were well below the action levels.

There are no detectable levels of lead in the water supplied by MDWASD. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community because of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested by an independent laboratory. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

NITRATE – Although the level of nitrate (refer to the table on water quality data) is consistently below the health effect level, the EPA requires the following information be included in this report: "Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue-baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall of agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider."

RADON – Radon 222, or radon for short, is a colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in soil, air and water. Radon is formed from the radioactive decay of natural uranium that is found in many soils. Most radon in indoor air comes from the soils below the foundation of the home, and in some locations can accumulate to dangerous levels in the absence of proper ventilation. In most homes, the health risk from radon in drinking water is very small compared to the health risk from radon in indoor air. For more information, call the EPA'S radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

In October 1999, the EPA proposed a Maximum Contaminant level (MCL) of 300 pCi/L or an alternative maximum contaminant level (AMCL) of 400 pCi/L for radon. The AMCL requires development of a multimedia mitigation (MMM) program, which also addresses radon exposure from indoor air. Action on a final rule is pending.

SODIUM – High levels of sodium may aggravate existing high blood pressure. Factors to help reduce high blood pressure include a low sodium diet, increased fruit and vegetable consumption, exercise, weight control, and medication, if necessary. The danger of high blood pressure is possible damage to the heart and arteries, which may result in heart attack, stroke, or possible damage to other body organs.

TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHMS) are formed when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter. These compounds are found at very low concentrations. The compound that make up the TTHMs include chloroform, bromodichloromethane, bromoform, and chlorodibromomethane. The result during 2004 for TTHMs was 14 ppb. The MCL is 80 ppb.

URANIUM is a metallic element, which is highly toxic and radioactive. The USEPA set a new standard of 30 ppb for uranium, which water systems must have met by December 2003. A sampling of our water for uranium was conducted in 2003. The level for uranium during 2003 was 1.7 ppb.